

The Daily Whig.

VOL. LII.

KINGSTON, CANADA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1883.

NO. 306.

Semi-Centennial Number.

January 10, 1884. December 31, 1883.

* Copy by William Price.

Fifty years ago upon a turbulent sea of Upper Canadian Journalism, strewed with many wrecks, was launched a little craft, with an odd name and with a pilot almost a stranger to the people of Kingston or the then Midland District. More people predicted its early foundering than saved its decks in the first few weeks, for the town of 4,000 people had already four papers, and the Patriotic War represented but a small portion of the inhabitants—the Loyalists. It had, however, a chance of its own, for Dr. Barker was a lively skipper, and having passed safely through the anxious storms of the rebellion, it sailed hopefully into the silver seas of prosperity which dotted around Kingston as a seat of Government. In time it ventured upon a public crisis, again with many dailyungeons as to success, such rapid sailing being then unknown to Canada. But good fortune did not desert it but rather it has prospered, and with such constantly widening to each the strengthening brooks it has reached the haven of old age, and upon its Golden Festival sets out afresh with the vigor of a new birth. Under the continued favor of its indulgent patrons it hopes to trace out the second half of a century's course upon the broad ocean of public usefulness.

The Whig was first issued from the building adjoining the Atheneum, Brock St., then from the Atheneum, after it had been vacated as a theatre. Upon this spot for thirty-eight years Dr. Barker guided his destined with a spirit and perseverance that made his best successes the most merited. Through the stages of weekly, bi-weekly and tri-weekly existence the Journal passed in 1859 to the rank of a daily, a novel experiment in the provinces at that time and a laborious one as the mechanical department, for until 1872 the handpress was the most advanced machinery in use. In 1872, the office passed into the hands of the writer, who as son of a former partner in the Whig, (afterwards publisher of the Argus) and as a grandson of the veteran editor, merely filled a natural succession. In 1876 the office was removed to premises in Brook Street, but the business grew beyond those limits and last year the property of Mr. Creighton, on King Street, was purchased, and the Whig is now issued from handsome quarters. Its history, though extensive in years, makes but a brief narrative, so few have been its changes. Its claimanship has been uniformly exerted on behalf of the good name, enterprise and industry of Kingston, and as the tendency of modern journalism is to confine each paper to its own immediate constituency, I trust that it is fulfilling a useful home mission. In that case this virtue may alone for some of its faults. If man be fallible, how much more fallible the newspaper he conducts!

The opportunities for preparing a special edition like this are few, since they have to be matched from the unceasing care of the printing room. Therefore to the old friends who have contributed to this number I am sincerely grateful.

To the regular patrons of the paper, now numbering over 2,000, I can but feebly express my thanks for a support that has grown beyond my most or anticipation of my own. The only, and perhaps the best and most sincere, return I can offer is this, that any increased prosperity it may be my lot to guide will be bestowed as faithfully upon the improvement of the Whig in the future as it has been in the past.

E. J. BAKER PAPER,

Dec., 1883.

The Niagara Telegraph said in 1857, "a more ably conducted paper than the Whig does not issue in the province. Every little ear in turn attacks it in turn, but like an English mastiff it turns on the one and then on the other, and is sure to have its opponent sprawling in the mud."

TAKING A PEEP.

At Kingston Fifty Years Ago—A Great Extension of Streets, Building and Industries.

Kingston has been of late years looking hopefully forward, with the glass magnifying present events and prophecies. Let us reverse the glass for a moment and look back fifty years, into the settlement then appearing for recognition as a town. It then had a population of 4,378, including a military garrison of 1,000. It had six churches, four resident physicians and an undue share of newspapers and auctioneers, four and five respectively. The garrison left life and many steamboat lines gave it business. As the judicial and mercantile centre of the Midland District it was the mecca of many daily journeymen, but as a manufacturing spot it was entirely unknown to fame. It was a town of traders. The residents were not, however, without a stirring enterprise at times, which bound them together in the furtherance of public and financial schemes. The limits of the settlement were encumbered. Bayot street was then called Royal street, and as its name implies, was at the border of the town. At Earl street to the south west the country began.

The Kingston of to-day, to be statistically inclined for the benefit of those who may read this number in the 1900s, has a population of 15,000, with the suburbs of Barriefield, Garden Island and Portsmouth, adding 1,000 more, has been built up over a circuit 3 miles broad and 2 miles east and west possesses 18 churches, four thriving colleges, four banks, and the handsomest public buildings, taken altogether, in the province. It has the convenience of a street railway, a telephone exchange, fire alarm telegraph, the Grand Trunk Railway, and its own line running north, the K. & Pembroke, opening a vast mineral and timber section to the city's commerce. The approach by land is made over a cordon of probably the finest macadamized roads in the province, bounded by the city in order to procure their construction. The Rideau Canal opens a great northern section to local enterprise. Its wholesale importers are among the most successful in the province, indeed its business has a prosperity and ability, if not an expansion, that any other place in Canada must envy. Its institutions are:

EDUCATIONAL.

Queen's University, with beautiful building, the gift of the citizens, 300 students and a staff of 15 Professors. Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons 12 professors, 100 students. Royal Military College, with very handsome buildings, and a large staff of English military officers. So cadets the Canadian Guards. Kingston Ladies' Medical College, first of the class in Canada, endowed by the citizens. Kingston Collegiate Institute and Technical and Business College, 100 pupils. Twelve public and separate schools, considered to be among the best in the province.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Provincial Penitentiary, 100 prisoners a model institution. Rockwood Asylum for the Insane, 450 inmates in the very front rank for equipment and efficiency of modern humane institutions. General Hospital, with an average of 45 patients. Hotel Dieu, treating about 25 patients. House of Industry, giving homes to 45 of the aged and destitute.

House of Providence, giving shelter to nearly a hundred old and young Orphans' Home, caring for an average of 50 children.

Congregation of Notre Dame, for the instruction of girls.

In addition are several national charitable societies besides poor relief associations—conspicuous societies the Salvation Army with its large barracks and hundreds of adherents, three Masonic lodges with five higher branches, three Odd Fellows lodges and encampment, lodges of A. O. U. W. and I. O. O. F.; six or eight Orange lodges, with an imposing Orange Hall; I. C. B. U. Branch, four foot-ball clubs (one holding the Provincial Championship) besides cricket, lacrosse, baseball, cycling, lawn tennis and golf clubs; two Episcopal sees, Anglican and Roman Catholic; Water and Gas Works; two public parks.

This list does not embrace a number of associations, auxiliary to the work of the colleges, churches and schools.

The City Hall, Court House and Post Office are all strikingly fine in architecture.

MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES.

Canadian Locomotive & Engine Works making five locomotives each month; 400 men.

Kingston Cotton Mill, 150 employees.

Kingston Hosiery Mills, 100 employees.

Victoria Stove Works, 60 men.

Davidson & Dorn's Foundry, Kingston Marine Railway, Montreal Transportation Company, K. & M. Forwarding Company, Law's Royal Walk, Angus's Saw Mill, Baker's and Grand Trunk Breweries, McMillan's Mill House, Crothers and Gardner's Biscuit Manufactories, Cleveland's Seed House, Kingston Vinegar Factory, Robertsons Soap Works, Flax—Factories of Stevenson & Co. and G. M. Weber & Co., Organ Factories of Joseph George and G. B. McEvitt, McEvitt's Foundry, G. W. Johnson's and G. W. Brown & Co.'s Carriage Factories, the Furniture Factories of Dryman, Reed and Brana, Chanderler's and Preston's Cigar Factories, Ford's Tannery, Wilson's Proprietary Medicine Depot. The business houses we shall not attempt to enumerate, for they number far into the hundreds.

THE FOUNDER OF THE BRITISH WHIG.



DR. BARKER.

THE MILITARY.

Battery B, Canadian Artillery and Royal School of Gunnery, occupying Tete de Pont Barracks, Fort Henry and Frederic 14th Volunteer Rifles.

Kingston Field Battery.

Headquarters of the 47th Frontenac Battalion and 4th Regiment of Cavalry

ARMED.

This is a mere day record but it is interesting in one respect, that it shows the complete change half a century makes. With the exception of St. George's Church, St. John's Masonic Lodge, Bajus' Brewery, and the R. C. Episcopacy, everything we have enumerated in the Kingston of today is the outgrowth of that time—the public, industrial and commercial features alike. Will readers looking back on this record fifty years hence find the disparity so great as that now apparent, or springing through 1834? They will undoubtedly; the world is moving faster every day.

A BOHEMIAN'S WORK.

The class of Work Reporters are supposed to be always Ready to Do.

Canada has as fine a class of reporters as any country under the sun, and some of the best and most useful members of the profession in the leading American cities hail from the land of the beaver and the maple leaf. Here reporters are generally young men under thirty years of age. Picking up any of the leading papers of the Dominion it will be seen that the major portion of the reading is the work of those who detail the gay and festive, the sad and solemn with equal vivacity. This multitudinous work a correspondent writing recently aptly describes—

They picture with glowing pen the beauties of a ball, and paint with sombre brush the dinges of a funeral; they seek incoming steamers for earliest intelligence, they give a sketch of the ghastly morgue, they attend the opening of a bridge or road with the policemen to extricate the wounded from a collision, they make one of the damp and dismal party on the outskirts of a humble village waiting to display in characteristic items the efforts of a Sullivan and a Shad. From the discovery of a sounding in a bucket on Mr. Somebody's doorstep, through every walk of life until the closing of the grave over the dead, the reporter paints pictures pencils sketches describe everything known to human existence. Reporters differ in many ways. Some are purely descriptive, in some a bump of humor is magnificently developed, some personify a story, short or long, with indicia of personality. Others are cast iron in recital, and make stories present as an algebraic problem. A good reporter, gifted with moral spirits and health, is a thing of beauty and a joy forever to any well regulated newspaper office. Every door is open to him, and the field of life is spread before him with its sunshine and its shades. In the course of an evening he talks with presidents and walks with princes, he sits with the sorrowful and mopes with the humble. In church to-day, in gloo to-morrow, merrily dancing with Arion this evening; deep down in coal pits with striking miners some other evening. Now he interviews a magnate of the land, and now takes the dying deposition of a hatched thief. Part of an evening is spent in the cathedral fair, part in a political meeting, part in the debas of a railroad collision. No place too sacred, none too lowly, no man in too high, too rich, too great for him to approach, none too poor, too humble for him to serve. He is as much at home in the palace of a millionaire as in an hospital ward of a pauper. He writes with equal readiness the gib uterances of a baffled bishop and the harrowing confessions of a poor devil in the cells. A good reporter must be discreet. How much he knows he cannot tell, how much he knows it would not be fair for him to reveal. He sees the best and worst types of society, and has his hand more commonly upon the pulse of affairs than any minister, lawyer, doctor or merchant.

In fact, and from a legal or wedding point of view, he is where Troilus was when he was not in love with Cressida.

Young men are full of a bohemian spirit.

In the sun, with his hand at his countryman's sleeve,

In halls where Diana fashion her votaries down,

At concerts, in fairs—the general observance of Monday evenings.

Should father his self run across a reporter,

And interview his father—of that there is no doubt,

The boy would soon show him the ropes that

Young men whose names were never to be mentioned when the final crash comes, will be there to record.

With his book and pencil the man of years,

In his library, where he reads the latest news,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,

With his wife and three children in the next room,

With his dog and cat, and the housekeeper,